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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 15, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL HUIZENGA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

LOOK FOR AREAS OF POTENTIAL AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is slowly dawning on some of my Republican colleagues, who were so gleeful about shutting down the government 2 weeks ago, that there will be no reward for not ruining the economy. Some think they should get a prize when they stop the senseless punishment of the American people, paying our employees not to work, and inflict-

ing needless disruption on the lives and costs to the taxpayers—billions of dollars.

It appears that the public has had a hard time figuring all of this out, but has understandably concluded that most of the blame is due to the Republican crusade against health care reform and their reckless choice of tactics.

Is it possible that something constructive can come from the Tea Party debacle? Absolutely. Maybe we can do our job and look for areas of potential agreement.

Last week, PAUL RYAN and I continued a long-standing partnership on agricultural reform. We led a debate showing the will of the House to limit subsidy for the terribly flawed and expensive crop insurance program by slightly reducing the lavish subsidies to the largest agribusinesses. It is not the final answer by any means. There is no guarantee the Ag conferees will pay attention to the will of the House, but it is a clear area in that we can reduce spending and improve programs for most farmers and ranchers.

Maybe we could find bipartisan agreement that we should not slash infrastructure spending even further. Let's have a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee and explore how to fund the transportation bill that expires in 348 days and creates a devastating infrastructure cliff.

If people are concerned about the deficit and government spending, maybe the House could finish work on its own spending bills. My Republican friends shut down the appropriations process more than 2 months ago. It might be instructive, before demanding more reductions in funding services, to see if they can actually pass their own version of the budget. If they can't, maybe they would reconsider taking government spending down to the levels of 1962, which is what their budget program requires, when America had

140 million fewer people, when there was one-third the number of senior citizens.

Regardless, their pleas to negotiate ought to mean that they stop refusing to negotiate with the Senate about the budget. If they are serious and not cynical, they will appoint their conference committees and stop 6 months of stalling.

Let's debate whether, at a time of retrenchment at the Pentagon, we really need to spend two-thirds of a trillion dollars over the next 10 years on nuclear weapons we don't need and cannot use for American security. Ninety percent of the expensive, dangerous stockpile is unnecessary for even the most ardent believer in nuclear deterrence. It has just morphed into a grotesque jobs program.

Should America sign away its mineral wealth to foreign companies for free? Before we cut investments in our people and our future, maybe we should reexamine the Mining Act of 1872, which remains on the books exactly as it was signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant.

These are areas worthy not just of debate but of real, honest negotiation and compromise and action. We can agree on areas to get more value for the taxpayer, help those who need it most, not those who need it least, and allow the process of government to work. If you try in good faith, the American system of government is not as bad as it looks.

THE TIME FOR SOLUTIONS IS NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the time for solutions is now. The American people expect their elected leaders to come to the table, work together, and put people above politics.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Today is the 15th day the Federal Government has been shut down, the 15th day national parks and memorials have been closed to the American people, the 15th day the NIH, WIC, and Head Start have not had the funding they were counting on.

Today is also 2 days shy of the deadline when America might reach its \$16.7 trillion debt limit. House Republicans, as we have for weeks, will continue to offer bipartisan common ground to reopen government and protect America's credit rating.

More than 70 Senators are on record as opposing ObamaCare's medical device tax. Let's put that tax on hold and reopen government.

It is not very fair that Members of Congress receive special help to pay for ObamaCare that isn't available to others. Let's remove the special treatment and reopen government.

It is not right that the American people are on the hook to provide health care subsidies to individuals whose incomes might not even qualify. Let's demand accountability for taxpayer dollars and reopen government.

Since the shutdown began, bipartisan majorities in the House of Representatives have voted to reopen government services and spare North Carolinians from Washington's dysfunction. We voted to open our parks and memorials because their closures are punitive, and they should never be disrespected by a theater of barricades.

We agree National Institutes of Health clinical trials should continue, so we voted to fund NIH. Similarly, we voted to ensure pay for all veterans and to restore FEMA, the FDA, Head Start, and the WIC program, among others; but most of our proposals to get government functioning again face Senate inaction and White House veto threats.

The our-way-or-the-highway mindset must stop. The challenges we face as a Nation require bipartisan solutions. Both parties need to work together to reopen government and manage our debt.

House Republicans remain committed to responsible, bipartisan solutions to end the shutdown and defend our credit rating. We hope our counterparts in the Senate are as well.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN'S HUMAN CONSEQUENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again speak about the human consequences of this reckless and irrational government shutdown. We have now reached day 15 of this foolishness.

Each day, I spend time speaking with people from my congressional district who are suffering through this through no fault of their own. Dorothy Lara, from Rockford, Illinois, shared the story of her family's history and their truly deep connection and commitment

to this country. Dating back to the early 1600s, her family has literally given their blood, sweat, and tears for America's freedom and democracy.

Nine generations ago, her family helped build the Mayflower, and not only that, they then helped coordinate its voyage. Her family's ancestors have served in nearly every war in this country—in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, both World Wars—and just recently, she welcomed home her son from Iraq.

Dorothy said it better than I ever could myself. She said—and these are her exact words—“All of my forefathers would be ashamed of what has been going on in this country today.” She went on to say, “What happened to a government by the people, for the people?” and then said, “What I want to see is what my forebearers have fought for: equality, job creation, honor, and respect. They are owed that much.”

We have the votes right now—right here—to reopen our government. We can end this madness and go back to governing our country the way we should be governing our country. Dorothy's family and so many other families throughout our country are, indeed, owed that much.

DEFICIT SPENDING AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized for the time, and I appreciate the recognition that this Chamber and my colleagues are putting on the issues before us.

As we look at Federal spending, what we have to do is say: What is causing us to be in a position where we are borrowing \$2 billion a day? And if we are borrowing \$2 billion a day, we have to ask: Is that a sustainable practice and something that we as a Nation can continue? Of course the answer to that is, no, it is not sustainable. Therefore, we have to look at what is causing us to spend more money than we are taking in, and one of the things that is at the top of that list that is too expensive to afford is the ObamaCare program, the Affordable Care Act.

What I would like to do today is focus my comments on what we are seeing from the Affordable Care Act and what has happened with the cost of this program and why it has become too expensive to afford and why we have to talk about it and focus on it and put it on the table as we talk about what our Nation spends.

Now, we all remember supposedly ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, was going to be a \$900 billion program, roughly, that was to give access to affordable health insurance for those who didn't have access to health insurance, but let's look at what has happened.

This was the estimate: under a trillion dollars, \$900 billion, when the pro-

gram was passed. But, oh, remember, we had to pass it in order to read it to find out what was in it. After we read it the first time, \$1.4 trillion. My source on this is the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO. Every time it has been reviewed, with some of the nearly 13,000 pages of rules and regulations, guess what has happened? The cost estimate has gone up. Now ObamaCare is a \$2.6 trillion program. So what we are looking at is a near tripling in cost before the program goes into effect. This is why we continue to say, as we look at fiscal health, fiscal restraint, you have to look at what is happening with the cost projections on ObamaCare.

Now, for those of us from my State of Tennessee, this is something that is not new to us. We had the test case for HillaryCare in our State. It is called TennCare. What happened with the TennCare program was it ended up quadrupling in cost in a period of 5 years.

Now, this causes us a little bit of concern because we look at what has happened with the cost of government-managed and -delivered health care services. Well, let's take a look at Medicare and where it was supposed to be in 1968 and then what has happened with its costs. You can look at these lines, the red line.

These are on my Web site for our colleagues that would like to go and look at the Web site.

You can see what happened in 1968, and the red line shows where it has grown to today. For something that was to end up being about \$12 billion a year, we are now spending over \$400 billion a year on. You can see what were to be the projections here on this bottom line, and you see how far it has exceeded its projections. So because of this, we are quite concerned with the growth and the projections of growth for ObamaCare.

Look at the track record of government spending. Do programs generally come in below their estimates? No. They generally exceed those estimates. So we continue to be very concerned about what will happen with the cost of ObamaCare and the impact this is going to have on our \$3.5-trillion-a-year budget, and we continue to say: We have to review this; it is too expensive to afford; and does it fit into what the American taxpayer is willing to pay for?

Because every penny we spend here in Washington, D.C., comes out of the taxpayers' pockets from money that they have earned and then have paid in taxes, sent to Washington, they expect us to be very careful stewards of those dollars.

Before my time expires, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out one other concern that we have with the exchanges and the way they are going to handle information. Six hundred million dollars to build a computer system that doesn't work and doesn't protect the

identity and the information of enrollees in the health care exchange is another of the problems there that is worthy of discussion of this program.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND HEAD START

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I place a loving picture of a little one and the excitement that comes from a Head Start program to emphasize my story this morning and the discussion I want to raise this morning for a brief amount of time.

All of us have seen those western movies where the train is rushing down the track and coming to a point where the tracks are no more. Black-and-white television, we used to sit on the edge of our seats, wondering what would happen. For the aesthetics of the movie, we would see that train fall into a deep abyss, people screaming out of the window or some takeaway that doesn't see the final crash, or maybe it does.

So as I listen to my friends on the other side this morning, it seems as if I were watching that same movie. Today is October 15, the 15th day of a government shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, we are in crisis, and there are those who are rising to the floor of the House to misrepresent to the American people some discussion about ObamaCare, which is working every day in this Nation. Albeit as Medicare and Medicare part D, we all need to sit down and knuckle down and look at ways that we can make it work better for the American people.

But we are in crisis today, and I think it is important to know that there are thousands of Head Start teachers and Head Start positions for little ones like my good friend here, the son of Marlon. He is Hector, who is not able to be in a Head Start program right now today.

For my friends, let me say that we have reason to be able to engage in a reasonable solution, a responsible solution. Where are they in coming together to make sure that we don't default in the next 24 hours? Maybe I should educate them with a little graph that shows that, in actuality, the debt-to-GNP under President Obama has actually gone down, meaning the debt has gone down.

The sizable increase in the debt was in the past administration, of President Bush, under Afghanistan and Iraq—everyone knows that—with a Republican-dominated Congress, a Republican President, a war that many did not like, but no one saw the Democrats try to shut the government down. Why don't they acknowledge where this original debt has accelerated itself?

So now we want to move forward and invest in American infrastructure, and they are crying about giving Americans affordable health care. Where is the reason?

So our friends in the Senate, Senate Democrats, are leading on a proposal to which many of us yesterday would have said that we wanted a long extension of the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, I have come here to be responsible on behalf of the American people. Let me read one sentence. On November 16, 1983, "Dear Howard." Howard was the majority leader, Howard Baker. "This letter is to ask for your help and support and that of your colleagues on the passage of an increase in the limit on the public debt." Signed, Ronald Reagan.

It is a misrepresentation to suggest that this is a political stunt. Raising the debt ceiling has been done year after year to pay the Nation's bills. While countries like our friends like China are pushing forward by saying maybe you don't need to rely upon America, which the world does because their currency is not flowing in the world cycle, we are watching while Rome is burning. So I am asking my colleagues to be responsible.

First, they could have put the Senate proposal of a short-term CR on the floor days ago, weeks ago. So now we have a proposal that many of us will probably find challenging to vote for, but I am ready to listen; and I am disappointed that our friends are not realizing the devastation that is happening with the government shutdown.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, it troubles me to hear that James Comey, the Director of the FBI, has said that he has laid off 3,000 people—3,000 FBI agents who are in the midst of law enforcement for America. What kind of country are we?

Judges—the Federal courts are saying they don't know if they are going to be able to go past October 15.

The greatest insult is the payments that are due the American people on Social Security and veterans' benefits that may be in jeopardy on November 1 if we don't do the work that we are sent here to do.

So I would ask my friends to lower the discord. Let's not wave Confederate flags in front of the White House, something that burns in my heart—individuals that want to divide America. Let's not call the President what is a faith that we should be respecting. Let's not denigrate ourselves by suggesting that our President worships Allah, but it is not denigrating the President as much as it is denigrating millions of Americans who are Muslims. I am outraged that we would raise it to this temperature.

So, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is let us be in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, who wanted to bring America together, and let us pass a reasonable response to the government shutdown. Let's not be talking about imploding or tearing this country down.

A BATTLE FOR THE ECONOMIC SURVIVAL OF THIS NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, you can never satisfy government's appetite for money and land; they always want more. Now we are \$17 trillion in debt and are headed to \$25 trillion in less than a decade under the best case scenario. Those are figures that are humanly incomprehensible; yet our estimates of our future unfunded pension liabilities are much, much higher. They are, probably, at least \$75 trillion or more.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office is the one that has put out these estimates, and they estimated recently that interest on the national debt will quadruple in less than 10 years to an astounding \$857 billion in just 1 year. If we allow that to happen, the Federal Government could then pay only for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and interest on the debt—nothing for defense, national parks, interstate highways, and so forth. Obviously, future Congresses cannot or would not allow that to happen, so they will then come in with a combination of huge tax increases and a tremendous inflation of the currency.

The fight we are in now is over a lot more than the "Unaffordable Care Act." It is a battle for the economic survival of this Nation. Anyone who wants their Social Security or their Federal or military pensions in order to be able to buy anything—or buy much at all in the very near future—should be demanding much more fiscal conservatism now. We either bite some very painful bullets now or we face much more difficult times in the very near future that will make our present problems look small in comparison. We could end up with problems like Detroit has now, but multiplied all across this Nation.

President Obama, when he was in the Senate, opposed raising the debt ceiling and said we shouldn't do it to our children and our grandchildren; and when we are in this war now over this spending, this battle for the economic survival of our Nation, Mr. Speaker, surely we do not want to ruin the future of our children and our grandchildren.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND POTENTIAL DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this 15th day of the government shutdown, a shutdown which has put hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work, that will have untold damage on what is already a hesitant economic recovery; and I rise as we contemplate the last maybe 24, 36 hours before an event unprecedented in American history: the possibility that, for the first

time in this great Nation's history, we may not pay our bills—we may default on our obligations—with a plea for sanity and a last-minute plea that we set aside the irresponsibility and recklessness that has consumed this Congress for years now, culminating in this moment.

What has it profited anybody? Seventy-four percent of Americans disapprove of the way the Republican majority has handled this. Democrats could not have dreamed of a better plan to cut the ground out from under the Republicans.

This week, the International Monetary Fund met here in Washington, and global leader after global leader stood up and basically said: What has become of the United States? How can you be so irresponsible? How can this one indispensable Nation now be a laughing-stock?

My constituents are certainly disturbed. I had a conversation with one of them, a guy I have known for probably 25 years now, and he said: Explain to me what is going on in Washington. The Republicans, Senator CRUZ, the House majority are demanding a negotiation.

I said: Yes, they are demanding a negotiation. They are using the shutdown and the debt ceiling as leverage to achieve their goals.

He said: What are those goals?

It started out with a repeal of the Affordable Care Act—that is where Senator CRUZ started a couple of weeks ago—and then it moved on to we want Congress to not have its employer contribution; and then it moved on to simply talk to us; and then there was a long list of things—we want the XL pipeline approved; we want the Affordable Care Act delayed for 2 years—a long, long list of policy wishes that the Republicans have said they want in this negotiation.

And my friend says: So what do you get? What do the Democrats get? If you build the XL pipeline—whatever it is—and if you give them five of the things they want, what do you get? Do you get investment in roads and railways and networks?

I said: No, we don't get that.

Do you get a commitment to improve the education of America's children?

No, no, we don't get that.

Do you get something that pretty much most Americans think is a good idea, which is some kind of comprehensive immigration reform?

I said: No, we don't get that.

He said: Well, what do you get? What do you get in this negotiation?

□ 1030

I said: All we get is that the government runs.

Really? The government runs. That is what Democrats get in this negotiation?

Yes.

He said: That is not a negotiation.

I said: That is exactly right. That is not a negotiation. That is something more akin to extortion.

And here we sit, where it is not just the government shutdown which is causing pain to Head Start kids in Bridgeport or fear amongst workers at Sikorsky who are building the Black Hawks that ferry our troops in and out of danger. Here we stand on the cusp of saying to the world that you can no longer rely on the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Folks, I used to work in finance, and there is nothing in finance—there is no share of stock, there is no bond, there is no income-producing property, there is no asset out there—whose value doesn't rest on the unalterable proposition that the United States Treasury is risk free. But the House majority is saying, first of all, that that may not be true, that maybe a default is not a big problem. Maybe it can be managed. It never happened before, but maybe it can be managed. This bedrock, I like to say in doing finance without the concept of a risk-free rate, is like trying to do physics without gravity. Nobody knows what it means, and we are putting this at risk.

So I plead for sanity, and I point out the fact that there are very real costs. The Macroeconomic Advisers, a research firm, has said that the last couple of years have resulted in 900,000 jobs not being created because of this constant hostage taking, this idea that we are going to run the country by crisis. Almost 1 million American jobs are not there because this Congress has done that.

Colleagues, the American people deserve better. It is time at this moment to come together, to be responsible, and to do right by the country.

REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT AND PAY OUR COUNTRY'S DEBTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I think it is so important as we come here today to take us back where this whole shutdown-debt ceiling crisis began, and that is when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said that we will not open and fund the government, we will not pass a continuing resolution unless you repeal, defund, delay the Affordable Care Act.

That was their mantra. They were standing at those microphones right over there. They were gleeful; they were pounding the table; and they were really thinking that—you know what?—the Democrats are willing to go back to a day when Americans were filing for bankruptcy because they got sick or got injured. They really believed we were going to allow America to go back to a day when you couldn't get insurance if you had a preexisting condition. They thought we were going to return to a time when we weren't trying to address this big doughnut hole that they created with Medicare part D.

We told them, it is not because we spent so much time on it, that it is not

because you tried to repeal it 45 times and you failed, that it is not because the Supreme Court said it was constitutional, and that it is not because in the last election the Presidential candidate who said I am going to implement health care reform in the Affordable Care Act won and beat the one who said he would repeal it by 5 million votes. Those are not the reasons we stand here.

We stand here because we have little kids and seniors and hardworking Americans who go bankrupt when they get sick, who sometimes are denied access to care which results in loss of life. That is why we said no. We said we can talk about a lot of things—we can negotiate on anything you want—but we are not going to say, if we repeal, delay, defund the Affordable Care Act, then you will do what it is your duty to do, which is to open the government.

So my friends in the Republican caucus knew that—you know what?—the American public is on to our game. We are trying to do everything we can to trick people into thinking it is not really us who are being obstructionists, extortionists, hostage takers. We don't want people to believe that is really us doing it. So, you know what? We have got to say something else. We have got to do something else.

Many of you, Mr. Speaker, who were listening heard a very interesting dialogue that occurred—and you can look it up on YouTube—between Senator RAND PAUL and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, in which they were sort of gaming out what words they should use and how they should sort of reposition themselves to look reasonable, to say, oh, let's negotiate, let's negotiate, when, in fact, they knew that their position was to defund the Affordable Care Act. They started saying things like, Negotiate. Let's negotiate. They even came up with this hash tag, Let's talk.

The bottom line is it was 6 months ago when we wanted to talk—and we still do—but we are not going to say we are going to get rid of the Affordable Care Act and put millions of Americans back in jeopardy, and then as a condition of doing that you will reopen the government.

What they are trying to do, Mr. Speaker, is to say, in exchange for throwing people off health care, they will then do their job. In exchange for putting people back at the tender mercies of an insurance company, they will do their job.

Now, Mr. Speaker, things have gotten really bad because the fact is we are only a few days—we are two days—away from when the Treasury has said they cannot engage in extraordinary measures anymore, that they cannot negotiate America's bills anymore, and on October 17 it is D-day. We have got to do something or bad things are going to happen.

As Mr. HIMES pointed out, no one really knows everything that is going to happen because no Congress in the

history of the United States has ever failed to pay its bills. It will be the Republican House majority that has failed America for the first time in American history by refusing to pay our bills, not because we don't have the money, not because we are not good for it, but because their political ideology dictates that, so they are sacrificing our Nation.

Here is what is going to happen. We don't know all, but we do know a few things. We know there will be higher interest rates and less access to business loans needed to finance payrolls. We know the businesses that want to build inventories and invest in equipment and in construction are going to face higher interest rates. It is going to cost more to do that. We know it is estimated that there are about 3.4 million veterans who may see their disability benefits in jeopardy. We will see catastrophic economic effects to our economy. We could see the average home buyer pay an extra \$100 a month.

Mr. Speaker, I will just close by saying this: we have to get our business in order, and I urge Republican moderates to join with us to reopen the government and to pay this country's debts.

LET US VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a critical moment for the 113th Congress of the United States. We have an opportunity to let this House work its will, to end the government shutdown, to protect the full faith and credit of our country, to show the whole world that after a 3-week bout with insanity, the duly elected Representatives of the people in this Congress finally came to their senses.

But I am concerned that that is not where we are heading here in the 11th hour of this crisis as we approach the precipice of the debt ceiling and the prospect of default. Instead of working together to develop a budget that would work for Americans, my colleagues across the aisle in the Republican Party continue to let reckless ideologues drive their agenda and drive all of us further into a national crisis.

I have the honor of serving on the Budget Committee; and along with Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN, the Democratic members of that committee have been calling since the spring for a conference committee so that we could actually work out a budget that could work for both parties and for the American people, but the GOP leadership in this House has refused to appoint conferees, has refused to go into that negotiation. Why did they do that? Because they preferred the strategy of taking us to this point, into this crisis with the government shutdown, up to the edge of the cliff with the possibility of default because they wanted to maximize their leverage.

Why have they shut down the government? Why have they put us in this position? Well, we heard for months that it was their obsession with the Affordable Care Act, with repealing, delaying, defunding ObamaCare. Yet all of a sudden, 3 weeks into this crisis, the goalposts are moving. It is not so much about ObamaCare. Sometimes it is in, and sometimes it is out on their list of demands. What about the deficit and the debt? Sometimes that is part of the stated reason for this manufactured crisis.

Back to ObamaCare. There is no question about it that the CBO says that moving forward with the Affordable Care Act will actually improve our deficit, will actually help us better manage our long-term debt. We know that there are all sorts of things that we could do together if reducing the deficit and managing our debt was the goal. For example, we could pass bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform, which again the CBO tells us would lower our deficits, lower our national debt, but that doesn't seem to really be what this Republican-manufactured crisis is all about.

It calls to mind the farewell address of our first President—the Founder of our country, George Washington—who warned about political parties who were at war with their own government. He warned about factions that were driven to defeat other factions by the spirit of revenge and dissension and how that itself would become a frightful form of despotism.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that we are walking very close to that awful scenario that our first President dreaded. Now we are hearing a bit of good news from the other House that Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL are close to a bipartisan agreement to help resolve this crisis. I have no doubt there would be enough votes in this House to pass that kind of agreement.

So to my Republican friends, let us vote on that deal or, even better, let us vote on the clean CR that has been pending in this House for weeks that could get us out of this crisis. It would temporarily fund the government at Republican funding levels while we work on a longer-term budget solution. Let us vote.

It seems to me that the GOP needs to simply take "yes" for an answer, allow this House to work its will and get out of this crisis. Unfortunately, we have heard from Senator REID that there were deals reached weeks ago. When Speaker BOEHNER brought those deals back to this House, he found that the Tea Party faction in his caucus wouldn't support him, and, instead, they chose to shut this government down and take us into this crisis. They did something worse than that. They rigged the rules of this House with the so-called martial law that has prevented Democrats from offering any alternatives, any off-ramps for this crisis. They shut down the government, and they hardwired it to stay shut

down, and now, like the dog that finally catches the car, my Republican friends don't know what to do with the situation they have created.

I have a suggestion. Instead of continuing to grope for overreaching concessions and fig leaves, cut your losses. Admit that this scorched-Earth politics of obstruction—this war against the very government that you were sent here to govern—is a bad idea. Let us vote on solutions to end this crisis.

We don't even need an apology for all of the damage you have caused—for the \$160 million a day that has undermined our economic recovery and economic losses from this shutdown. We don't even need an apology for the thousands of Federal employees indefinitely furloughed, for the national parks and forests that have been shuttered, for the loans to farmers and families, who are trying to purchase homes, that have been held up. We don't need you to apologize for halting lifesaving research, for any of that.

Just let us vote to end this crisis. If you don't, don't bother apologizing, because the American people will never forgive the damage you have done to this country and to our standing in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Andrew Hofer, OP, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

All powerful and merciful God, we ask You to put forth Your spirit of blessings upon the world which You have freely made, this Nation, which trusts in You, and upon all here on Capitol Hill who turn to You.

We have been wrong and we have sinned. Give us all a share of Your wisdom and Your mercy. Enlighten us so that we can turn from our error and live by the power of Your truth. Strengthened by You, may we stand united in necessary matters, acknowledge liberty in doubtful matters, and be charitable in all matters.

We ask this of You, the source of all unity, liberty, and charity, to whom be glory and honor now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SWALWELL of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS CRUCIAL TO REOPEN GOVERNMENT'S DOORS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has been shut down for 15 days. For 15 days, the President and Senate Democrats have made very few attempts to work with the House to reopen the government's doors. Washington Democrats have not been willing to meaningfully negotiate with House Republicans who voted four times to avoid the fiscal crisis.

Time is ticking. The people of South Carolina's Second Congressional District are hurting due to Washington Democrats' inability to engage in the legislative process. On behalf of the Savannah River Site employee in Aiken who is at risk of additional cuts to his hardworking paycheck, and the young family in Columbia who has been denied access to a medical trial that could potentially save their daughter's life, we should reopen the government, which promotes jobs.

House Republicans understand the risk at stake. That is why we support commonsense proposals that will avoid national default and reopen the government's doors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

STAND UP TO THE EXTREMISTS

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise personally ashamed at the political sideshow in front of the White House perpetrated by Ms. Palin and Senator CRUZ and his congressional allies. For Members to protest against the consequences of a shutdown they, themselves, caused is the height of hypocrisy. The truth is we could pass a clean continuing resolution today and get our government back to work.

I was outraged by some of the imagery we saw from the Tea Partiers who were rallying in front of the White House. Calling for the President's impeachment not a year after his reelection by a large majority of the American people and continued lies about the President's religion, including one participant saying, Put the Quran down, have no place in civil discourse.

But I was especially disturbed by the waving of the Confederate flag, a symbol of racial oppression, being waved at our first African-American President.

I call on my colleagues to condemn this hateful rhetoric and to renounce these fringe voices within their coalition.

This is a shameful display of Members on the other side of the aisle, and they ought to stand up—the majority—to the extremists in their own party, as we have with our own party, and stop trying to hold the government and full faith and credit of the United States Government hostage.

CONFEDERATE FLAG RALLY

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, this shutdown is shining a light and showing the world some of the extreme members of the Tea Party. This weekend, Tea Party Senators TED CRUZ and MIKE LEE led a rally on the National Mall where one of their speakers, Freedom Watch founder Larry Klayman, called on President Obama to "leave town, put the Quran down, and come out with your hands up."

The rally moved to the White House where Tea Partiers waved the Confederate flag in front of the President's home. The picture is unnerving; it is despicable; and it is not the same flag that we just pledged allegiance to in this House. It does not depict an America whose seal reads: "E Pluribus Unum"—"Out of many, one."

To date, neither Senator nor any member of the Tea Party Caucus in this House has publicly denounced these ugly, disgusting comments toward our President. I respectfully ask my friends across the aisle to do so.

We may disagree on many things in this Chamber, but I sincerely believe that no one in the Tea Party Caucus believes that this display outside the President's house is acceptable. Condemn this behavior. If you don't and you let it go, you are condoning it.

"Out of many, one"—"E Pluribus Unum." As one America, let's denounce this. It is time to come together.

LET'S DEAL WITH OUR DEBT AND OUR DEFICIT

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 15.

Today is day No. 15 of the government shutdown. We are less than 48 hours away from defaulting on our bills. We have never done that in the history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't pay our bills, that would be reckless behavior and that would be irresponsible.

But we are seeing some progress.

First, it seems like both the House and the Senate have agreed to open up government until January 15. Let's make that happen.

Second, it seems like both the House and the Senate agree to lift the debt ceiling until February 7. Let's make that happen.

But let's do step number three, which says, let's set a budget process in place that negotiates a budget that starts to deal with our debt and our deficit so we can get out of this crisis mode and start getting about the business of creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we are close. Let's get this done for the American people.

LET'S OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln offered these words:

The rule of a minority as a permanent arrangement is wholly inadmissible so that rejecting the minority principle, anarchy or despotism in some form is all that is left.

I think we have come to the point of recognizing that it is important to represent the majority of Americans, the majority of veterans, who in some short order may be questioning whether or not their veterans or their disability check or their family's SSI or their mother's Social Security will come in an appropriate time.

The Secretary of the Veterans Administration already said that he has

had to discontinue overtime, slowing our review of benefit claims. This has led to delays for an average of 1,400 veterans a day.

I say to my colleagues, rather than coddling those who wish to wave a Confederate flag in front of the White House, let us respect veterans whose lives are in cemeteries or whose lives have been recognized by being buried in America's cemeteries. Let us stop the foolishness and put on the floor of the House the reasonable response to opening the government now so that men who are mourning, those who have flags that are truly the American flag, are being respected, not those who wish to be in front of the White House. Open the government now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentleman has expired. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THE DEBT

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Here we are, folks, my colleagues, fellow Americans. In just a few days, the United States may not be able to pay its debts. That would be horrible for the country and for leadership as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, how did we get here? The other side—and you are hearing from them—took control of the place. In 4 years, the spending went unchecked. The debt rose from \$9 billion to now \$17 trillion. They are asking for another trillion dollars to continue the spending unchecked to continue the indebtedness.

We can and we should come together to resolve this; but at some point, you have to be responsible as a parent, as a Member of Congress, as citizens to hold the line, to stop the spending, and to put a check on indebtedness to the future.

Barack Obama voted against raising the debt limit when he was a Senator and said that not addressing the debt was a lack of leadership.

PUT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIRST

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the deadline for preventing the United States from defaulting on our debt is growing closer, and the need to act is more critical.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, we don't know the full extent of the damage that our Nation's economy would suffer.

But here is what we do know: a default would mean higher interest rates for over 278,000 New Yorkers with mortgages, a loss of disability benefits for over 100,000 New York veterans, and the

threat of being unable to pay Social Security and Medicare drug reimbursements to over 3,000 New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, the argument by some in this Chamber that defaulting on our debt wouldn't be a big deal is outrageous. Putting the full faith and credit of our Nation—not to mention the strength of the world economy—on the line simply to prove a political point is both reckless and irresponsible. This House must put the best interests of the American people first and avert this disaster so we can get back to rebuilding this economy and nation-building right here at home.

DEBT CEILING

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this madness has got to stop. Yesterday, I heard from a local homeless shelter in Irvington, New Jersey, that is struggling to provide for the overwhelming number of homeless new mothers. These are new mothers who can't feed their babies now that their WIC benefits have been cut off.

Because of the government shutdown, homeless shelters across New Jersey are running low on baby formula, diapers, and the food they need to feed these mothers and their newborn babies. This kind of story is shameful, and it is happening all over New Jersey.

The pain I see in my district is very real, and it could get a whole lot worse. If we choose not to pay our bills on time, 1½ million people in New Jersey may not get their Social Security checks; 50,000 disabled veterans in New Jersey may not get their medical bills paid.

Congress has two simple jobs right now: one, to open the government; and, two, to pay our bills on time.

These are nonnegotiable. The Republican Tea Party shouldn't hold this country hostage.

Let's get to fixing America's problems again instead of creating them.

□ 1215

BAN THE BOMB

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is incomprehensible to reasonable men and women everywhere that our colleagues across the aisle are threatening to nuke the American economy by refusing to raise the debt ceiling unless their demands are met. This is irresponsible and reckless behavior. "Nuke" is the right word to use here. As Warren Buffett noted recently, even the threat of default should be likened to nuclear weapons too terrible to ever use.

Allowing the U.S. to default on its obligations, whether it be an interest

payment on a Treasury bond, a check due to a Social Security recipient, or money due to a Federal contractor so they can pay their workers, would have a cataclysmic effect on our economy and would be felt around the world. It would be a mistake that would impoverish a generation and haunt us for a decade, and there could be no second opportunity to get it right.

Anyone who dismisses how great a disaster a default would be should not be taken seriously. They should not be listened to or given a seat at the table where responsible decisions are made. Let's open up the government now.

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, America simply has a spending problem. That much is clear. Our national debt stands at nearly \$17 trillion; \$17 trillion. Let that number sink in for a moment.

Is it that kind of legacy that we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren?

This year alone our national deficit is projected to be around \$700 billion, and that is despite the President's \$600 billion tax increase this year. In fact, the government is going to collect more revenue this year than it has ever taken in before. How much sense does that make?

What is being done to address the real driver of our debt—runaway Washington spending? House Republicans want commonsense spending cuts and reforms. We want everyone treated fairly under ObamaCare, no special treatment, especially for big corporations or for Members of Congress. We want a secure economic future for all Americans. It is time to act. It is time for real solutions.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ISSUES

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a senior Texan on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am very concerned about the transportation safety issues created by the Republican government shutdown. For example, aviation safety is in peril as the Federal Aviation Administration has furloughed approximately 1,700 safety inspectors and drastically limited aircraft maintenance. These types of safety risks created by the Republican government shutdown are intolerable.

Further, the National Transportation Safety Board has been forced to furlough more than 90 percent of its staff. As a result, it has not been able to continue investigating deadly transportation incidents nor initiate new investigations of accidents that have occurred since the Republican government shutdown began.

Mr. Speaker, the political games being played by the Republican leadership are causing serious harm to transportation safety for all Americans, and it is totally unacceptable. We do have a spending problem created by the two Republican wars.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, many of us were still stuck in Washington, waiting for a resolution, but one of the highlights was the opportunity to be with our veterans as we helped them to gain entrance to their national monuments, their memorials, here in Washington, D.C. It is just sad that they even have to wonder if they are breaking the law or need assistance to get into open air monuments and memorials that are theirs.

It is even sadder to hear the rhetoric on this floor today that all that would be boiled down and impugned to one guy at random bringing a flag that some people don't like.

Why don't we talk about those veterans and the great service they have made for this country and about the meanness of the Park Service's arbitrarily renting barriers to shut them out. Why aren't we talking about that as much? This shutdown situation is made much worse by the attitude of those in the White House—by exerting pain on people, by shutting down the things they do care about in order to play this political game.

So this isn't a Republican House shutdown. This is a U.S. Senate shutdown as we have sent, time after time, bill after bill over there. Let's get together and get this done right for the people in California, including for the students I met with from Lyman Gilmore Middle School, who are here with us today.

IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON EVERYDAY LIVES

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it pains me to see the shutdown's impact on everyday lives. While ordering coffee the other day, I asked Diona, the hardworking woman behind the counter, how she was doing that day. She confided that she had been up all night taking care of her 3-year-old son, who was suffering from stomach pains. She was exhausted. She wanted to buy the Lactaid milk that settles her boy's stomach, but because of the shutdown, her WIC office was not open. Her WIC card was out of money, and she was a long way from payday.

There are probably tens of thousands of Dionas out there—women working hard and worried about their kids and not sure how they will make ends

meet. The media may be focusing on the rancor, the talking points of politics, but this shutdown is really about a little boy with stomach pains and a mother who cannot afford to give him relief. The Women, Infants, and Children program helps low-income women buy formula and other healthy foods, and it is one of our most successful nutrition programs. It is just one of the shutdown's many casualties.

Let us end this shutdown right now. Let us vote on a clean bill to fund the whole government. Let us restore vital problems like WIC, and let us stop this lunacy and get back to work for the American people.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican shutdown of government and their move to default on our debt are like forcing the wrong medicine on a sick patient—you might get them to take it, but it could kill them.

The only way America can pay back our Nation's debt is through economic growth and job creation, not bad medicine.

Let's not forget that we are still digging our way out from the Wall Street-induced Great Recession. Where did the \$17 trillion of national debt come from? The Wall Street recession cost American households \$19.2 trillion in lost wealth and the country 8.8 million jobs.

Under President Obama, we have had 42 consecutive months of job growth, leading to 7.5 million jobs being created, unlike in the Bush years when there wasn't a single job created. In fact, we lost over a half a million jobs. In the last 12 months of the Bush years, the country lost 4.6 million jobs. Let's not forget that America has accumulated an \$8.4 trillion trade deficit since 1975 and that we have racked up \$4 trillion in unpaid-for war spending.

So what is the Republican solution? Shut down the government. Don't pay the bills. The latest idea is to govern by supercommittee.

Mr. Speaker, we need to restore regular order, to move bills, to create jobs, and keep America's promises to our debtors. Let's nurse our Nation back to health, and stop continuing the economic pain with bad medicine.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. Members are reminded to please heed the gavel.

RECKLESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN MUST END

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to come together. This reckless government shutdown must end.

Southern Arizonans and Americans all across our country are hurting, and our economy has been seriously harmed. The Senate is working on a bipartisan solution to reopen the government and to avoid putting America into default. I am very hopeful that we can find a reasonable and responsible plan and immediately bring it to the House floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, we must end this blame game. We must put the American people first. Let us come together and act responsibly now. Let this government shutdown end, and let us ensure that we pay our bills now. It is important, and the American people are calling on us to act, to act now.

END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have again recklessly threatened America's future by allowing the Nation, already in a Republican shutdown, to default on its debt unless the Congress votes to stop ObamaCare. The government has been shut down for 2 weeks, and the United States will default on its debt in 2 days. All respected economists say a default means devastating and definitely unnecessary damage to our economy and to the global marketplace. Yet Republicans radically and irresponsibly push us toward the precipice of default. Their disconnect from financial reality is certainly breathtaking. Their actions are reckless, radical, and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, there is power in numbers. If reasonable Republicans would stand up to their radical right wing, we could end this shutdown and avoid a default today.

A LETTER FROM A CONSTITUENT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, a recent letter I received:

I am writing this letter in regards to the new "affordable" healthcare. My husband and I are small business owners with two other employees. We purchase our insurance as individual insurance, and we received a letter this past week that our rates are changing. We currently have a \$5,000 deductible with a monthly premium of \$415, and on the new plan, if we stay with the current company, it is going to be \$4,000 with a monthly premium of \$1,093.78. I have tried to access the www.healthcare.gov Web site, and have been able to register an account but have not been able to get any type of pricing. I have contacted both of my Illinois Senators and my House Representative and have been told that they are not in favor of a government shutdown, but I am here to say if a shutdown is what it takes to get people to listen, then shut down. The reason I am contacting you is because my Congressmen are not willing to stand up to the President, and I just want to say good job for standing your ground.

DOING THE RIGHT THING

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the third week of this reckless, irresponsible shutdown, it is no wonder that folks in my Arizona district and across the Nation are disgusted. They see Washington treating this shutdown as a political game. I have got news for them. How far will the House majority push our Nation just to score political points? No one wins. Everybody loses, and here is what an editorial in the Arizona Republic says today about this shutdown:

When it is all over, the huge costs will be tallied, and the hard work Congress has avoided will remain undone. America will join the world in wondering: Is that all there is? The only heroes in this tragedy are the Americans who still believe their government can eventually do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, let's show the American people that this House is still capable of doing the right thing.

DOING WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, 15 days ago, an extreme faction of the Republican Party, supported by its leader and empowered by its more complacent members, brought about a shutdown of the entire Federal Government. It has since brought us to the brink of an unprecedented default, and now it refuses to accept a compromise that will open up the government, put people back to work, and lift the debt ceiling so the United States can pay its bills.

Americans are fed up with the political obstructionism and dysfunction that has caused this unnecessary crisis. With the clock running out, we cannot afford to waste any more time. We need to act now. So I say to my colleagues across the aisle, stop your guerilla tactics; stop playing games with the good faith and credit of the United States; stop putting radical ideology ahead of the welfare of the American people; and stop sabotaging our economy and our democracy.

We have got to bring common sense, integrity, and honor back to the House of Representatives and do what is in the best interests of this great country.

□ 1230

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th day of the government shutdown. I am finally encouraged that we are seeing a bipartisan agreement

in our Senate that will reopen the government and avert a credit default.

There is a lot of bashing of both sides going on down here, but I want to take this time to actually applaud our leaders in the United States Senate, HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, for their coming together to turn this ship around for the American people. Mr. Speaker, I also want to give a shout-out to Senator COLLINS and Senator MANCHIN for breaking the logjam.

This past Friday, the shutdown became a harsh reality for many American families as tens of thousands of workers did not receive a paycheck. These are hardships everyday working families can't afford.

This shutdown is deeply unfair to the American people. The clock is ticking, but we are seeing the framework of a commonsense solution to put an end to the recklessness and irresponsibility of this shutdown.

I hope that this House has an opportunity to vote on the Senate proposal soon and put this whole mess behind us for the sake of the country and the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1933

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED) at 7 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: Due to my appointment to the Energy and Commerce Committee, I hereby resign my position on the Education and Workforce Committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for October 14 and the balance of the week on account of attending to family acute medical care and hospitalization.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3301. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Richard W. Hunt, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3302. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Claude R. Kehler, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3303. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Edward A. Rice, Jr., United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3304. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting a formal response to the GAO report "Haiti Reconstruction: USAID Infrastructure Projects Have Had Mixed Results and Face Sustainability Challenges" (GAO-13-558); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3305. A letter from the Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3306. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Delaware River, Wilmington, DE [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0827] (RIN: 1625-

AA00) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3307. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Catawba Island Club Wedding Event, Catawba Island Club, Catawba Island, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0840] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3308. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Frogtown Race Regatta; Maumee River, Toledo, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0839] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3309. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area-Tappan Zee Bridge Consturction Project, Hudson River; South Nyack and Tarrytown, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0705] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3310. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pro Hydro-X Tour, Atlantic Ocean, Islamorada, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0762] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H.R. 3292. A bill to prevent the Government of Iran from gaining a nuclear weapons capability and to maximize the United States' diplomatic influence to achieve, consistent with the national security interest of the United States and its allies and partners, a negotiated settlement with the Government of Iran regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3293. A bill to reform the public debt limit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3294. A bill to establish a streamlined process through which a State may claim authority over and responsibility for management of Federal lands located in the State without claiming ownership of the land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. HALL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, and Mr. BACHUS):

H.J. Res. 94. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 95. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. JOHN-SON of Ohio):

H.J. Res. 96. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fossil energy research and development of the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 3292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which states the Congress shall have power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States, and;

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, which states the Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign Nations

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and other relevant provisions

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.J. Res. 94.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ."

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.J. Res. 95.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.J. Res. 96.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution: No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 15: Mr. BERA of California and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 60: Mr. HONDA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 233: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 366: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NEAL, Ms. HANABUSA, and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 411: Mr. BARBER.

H.R. 456: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 501: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 523: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 525: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 708: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 713: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 805: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 920: Mr. DAINES and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 984: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1010: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1154: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1164: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 1173: Mr. O'ROURKE and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1362: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1428: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1666: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1726: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1851: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1920: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1921: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2101: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2144: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2203: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DENT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2213: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 2247: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 2283: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2288: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2482: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2502: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2598: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 2619: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2807: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 2810: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 2932: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 2957: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3043: Mr. KLINE and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3050: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 3077: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3143: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 3212: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. YOHIO.

H.R. 3213: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3275: Mrs. BLACK and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3279: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 3286: Mr. POLIS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. BARBER.

October 15, 2013

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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H.R. 3287: Mr. HUNTER.	H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROTHFUS, EDWARDS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. and Mr. DUFFY.	McCOLLUM, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms.
HARTZLER, and Mr. ROKITA.	H. Res. 109: Mr. RICE of South Carolina. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr.
H.J. Res. 56: Mr. HOYER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, H. Res. 381: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, SMITH of Washington, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and	Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. MICHAUD. Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. Mr. HONDA.